

Amendment to the Specification

Please amend page 10, lines 26 – 35 of the specification as follows:

Such a polysaccharide may be advantageously extracted from the microorganism according to conventional methods and purified likewise. This polysaccharide may be used in the crude form after extraction/purification. Alternatively, it may be fragmented in order to obtain a polysaccharide having an average molecular weight less than that of the polysaccharide originally extracted. A particularly advantageous fermentation method is described in WO 93/7178, now U.S. Patent no. 6,007,818, which is incorporated by way of reference.